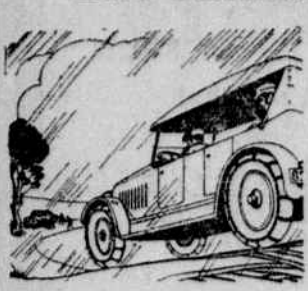


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REFORM PLEDGED TO ESCAPE CENSOR

Motion Picture Men Make
Promise to Gov. Miller if
He Vetoes Bill.

BIG FUND IS AVAILABLE

Leaders in Industry Make
Last Desperate Stand
Against Measure.

BANKERS CONTROL STOCK

Advocates of Scrutiny to Cut
Out Bad Screens Repeat
Their Arguments.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau,
Albany, April 26.

Motion picture men made a hard fight against State censorship to-day when they appeared before Gov. Miller for their last stand against the Lusk-Clayton measure passed by the Legislature and now before the Executive. It is regarded as almost certain the Governor will sign the bill.

Leaders in the film world pledged their word they would purge the screen of its evils and immorality if they were allowed to act of their own accord. They declared they recognized the evil and wanted to get rid of it, but censorship would ruin some picture producers and give the whole business a black eye.

Paul D. Cravath, counsel for producers and stock owners; Augustus Thomas, playwright; Almet F. Jenks, formerly Supreme Court Justice, and of counsel for the producers, and Gabriel L. Hess, secretary of the Goldwyn Pictures Corporation, spoke against the bill. Representatives of all of the large picture concerns were present. The act provides for a commission of three to serve with salary of \$7,500 a year each, with authority to pass on the merits and demerits of every inch of film shown in this State. The act proposes to levy a tax and requires the licensing of all films.

"Censorship generally is a thing to be avoided, but there is no doubt the business needs reformation," Mr. Cravath said.

"I agree that censorship is a thing to be avoided unless a greater evil is created by its avoidance," the Governor commented.

"There has come a big change in the industry in the last eighteen months," Mr. Cravath continued. "There is a billion and a quarter in the business and the stocks have been sold by reputable bankers. They stand back of this offer we make to clean up the business."

"We agree that the public interest requires that effective measures be taken to prevent the exhibition of objectionable films and advertisements. The producing companies will withhold their services from theatres that insist upon exhibiting films which have not been approved by the editorial committee we suggest. The concerns which produce 95 per cent. of the films shown in this country stand back of this offer we make."

Four men sitting in the executive chamber were able absolutely to control film production and make good any promise given, said H. D. H. Connick, chairman of the finance committee of the Famous Players-Lasky Corporation. The names of twenty-seven picture corporations were signed to the proposal handed to the Governor.

One result of the censorship agitation, Mr. Connick said, is that the picture interests now are pulling together for the first time.

"They are all coming in under the tent as fast as they can; they are crowding up to the mourners' bench."

"They might run out if the danger of

censorship was passed," the Governor remarked.

"No, the business has changed; we have got to pay dividends now," Mr. Connick said. "Section 6 of this bill provides a penalty on economy and industry. We have 700 films in our library. If you sign this bill we will have to step to some State official and pay \$75,000 in taxes because we have ploughed our reserves into our business instead of handing it out in dividends. We can do that, but we will have to raise the price to the producer; that is all it means. Unless the banks are generous, some of the picture concerns will face bankruptcy."

New York is the picture centre of the world, Mr. Connick said, and he objected to having a State censorship say what pictures could be sold to foreign customers.

"I doubt whether such a construction of the bill is sound," the Governor said.

"I have been writing for thirty-five years and I would not take a job for \$5,000 or \$75,000 for censoring what the public is to see," Augustus Thomas said. "The press is the best censor. There are sensitive souls who are too easily shocked. It would be a great misfortune to check this industry."

Mrs. Clarence Waterman, representing the Women's Association for Better Motion Pictures, led in supporting the censorship bill and was backed up by Canon William S. Chase, Mrs. Ellen O'Grady and others.

LUSK BILL CZARISM,
MILLER IS WARNED

Would Drive Best Teachers
Away, Protesters Assert.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau,
Albany, April 26.

Gov. Miller listened for hours to-day to protests against the Lusk anti-sedition bills. Educators and representatives of civic and labor organizations told him that the State or country had ever before attempted such law-making. The bills are the worst kind of Prussianism, the speakers said, and insisted the best teachers would be driven out of the schools.

The bills require the licensing of private schools and would force all teachers to undergo a loyalty test. The principal objection to the teachers bill was it would prevent from getting a license any teacher who advocated a change in our form of government even though it was by peaceful and legal means.

While the belief here is that the Governor will sign the bills, he will not act hastily. He will receive briefs until next Monday. Gov. Miller on several occasions plainly showed his impatience with some of the opponents of the bills. Howard S. Nudd, representing the Citizens Union and several other New York civic organizations, said the Governor under the Lusk Mills would not be permitted to teach because he had advocated last autumn the repeal of the direct primary law. The Governor showed anger when he broke in.

"There is on use of wasting your words with me on any such argument because it is absurd. Our form of Government is republican. The Constitution does provide for amendments and we have numberless amendments. It seems to me absurd that anybody should suppose that any court would ever construe the language of this bill to mean what you suggest. Obviously it means the advocacy of some different form of Government, like, for example, the Soviet Government or a monarchy."

Morris Hillquit said he appeared for the Rand School of New York but that the Governor he was no more concerned about that school under the Lusk bill than any other teaching institution in the State.

"I do not believe that even Russia under the Czar would attempt anything so reactionary to terrorize and control the system of private education," Hillquit said.

"Kaiser Wilhelm by declaring what his schools must teach in 1899 adopted this plan as the basis of his school system, with what results we have seen," Mr. Nudd said. "These bills will create a nagging espionage which will gradually drive out the progressive and able teacher and leave instead of those of more conforming mind and shallower conscience."

Yes; they are a departure from the ordinary!

PIRIE MACDONALD
Photographer of Men.

676 FIFTH AV. COR. 47th ST.

U. S. TO HOLD LIGI IF FREED IN BOMB CASE

Police Give Up Hope of Con-
necting Suspect With Wall
Street Disaster.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
SCRANTON, Pa., April 26.—John McCourt, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Pennsylvania, said to-day that the Government probably will bring a charge of criminal anarchy against Tito Ligi, held here as a suspect in the Wall street bomb explosion of last September 16. This charge probably will be based on statements he has made since his arrest, the anarchistic books and pamphlets found in his room, and his activity in the Shickelshyne min-

ing district in the strikes of May, June and July, 1920.

The authorities said that Ligi had been identified by two men as one of the agitators who precipitated the out-law mining strike in that district, picking him out of a lineup in the Lackawanna County Jail at Green Ridge. The Government agents say also that Ligi was instrumental in organizing anarchistic meetings during the strike.

James J. Gagan, head of the New York bomb squad, returned to New York city this morning, but left three members of his squad here to check up on the movements of Ligi in September. It is the belief of the New York authorities that Ligi knows nothing about the explosion.

The detectives view sceptically the identification Saturday of Ligi as a man who stood beside the bomb wagon five minutes before the explosion. It is their belief that the printed pictures of Ligi were so firmly fixed on the mind of Thomas J. Smith, the witness, that he could not have avoided picking out the bushy haired Italian. The Federal agents admit that little progress has been made, and that it is questionable whether they will be able to prefer any charge against Ligi in connection with the explosion.

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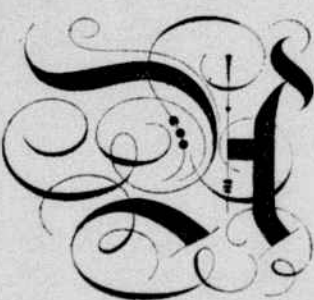
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